

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for playing back an audio presentation with an accompanying visual presentation, the method comprising  
detecting a cue indicating a characteristic of music of the audio presentation; and  
using the cue to modify a visual presentation in synchronization with the audio presentation.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cue is included embedded with the audio presentation.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the cue is included in a file separate from the audio presentation.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of using the cue includes substeps of  
determining a cue type; and  
modifying the visual presentation in accordance with the determined cue type.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of volume level.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of frequency band strength.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a beat in a song.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of sub-beats.
9. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a vocal performance.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the cue type includes an indication of the start of a vocal performance.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the cue type includes an indication of the presence of a word of vocal performance.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a basic speech sound.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a phoneme.

14. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a lighting effect.

15. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of MIDI information.

16. The method of claim 4, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a non-physical effect.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the cue type includes an indication of a human mood.

18. A method for authoring a visualization, the method using a display screen coupled to a user input device and to a processor, the method comprising the following steps executed by the processor

displaying a representation of an audio waveform on the display screen;

accepting signals from the user input device to create a cue at a selected point in the representation of the audio waveform;

displaying a visual indicator corresponding to the cue adjacent to the representation of the audio waveform near the selected point; and

storing an indication of the cue at the selected point.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of storing includes storing the indication of the cue in a file with data describing the audio waveform.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of storing includes storing the indication of the cue in a file separate from data describing the audio waveform.